REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for reconsidering the Restriction Requirement, and allowing Groups I, II and III to proceed in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claim 23 has been canceled. Claims 1-22 and 24-43 are currently pending in this application.

The drawings are objected to because reference number "84" was used for two different elements in the drawings. As shown in the proposed drawing corrections, Figure 4 has been amended to correct this error, as has the Specification on page 11, line 1.

The specification on page 11, line 18 has been amended to include the serial number of the recited application. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all formalities as to the specification and drawings have been attended to by the above amendments and drawing corrections.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,126,524 to Shepherd. Shepherd discloses a waterjet head 14 that is coupled to a plate 18 via a head support system 60. The head support system has two components, namely, a flexible yoke 64 and a pivot mounting joint assembly 70. Yoke 64 is provided with a collar 68 that receives a portion of the head 14, and a flange 66 that is coupled to the plate 18.

A drive system 62 of Shepherd includes a motor 80 held by a support 82 to the plate 18. The drive shaft 84 of the motor 80 carries a grooved sheave 86. An inner retainer 88 of a bearing assembly 90 is attached to an upper cap portion 92 of the cutting head 14 and an outer retainer 94 of the bearing assembly carries a grooved pulley 96. A drive band 98 coupled to the sheave 86 rotates the pulley 96 when the motor 80 is operated to impart motion to the cap portion 92 of the waterjet head 14.

Claim 1 of the present application recites, among other things, "a motion assembly coupled to the cutting head assembly via a clamp positioned around the body of the cutting head assembly; and wherein an outer surface of the body mates with an inner surface of the clamp in a weight-bearing manner to vertically position and support the cutting head assembly."

Therefore, claim 1 recites a clamp that supports the body of a cutting head assembly in a weight-bearing manner and that also couples a motion assembly to the cutting head. This feature is not taught or suggested in Shepherd. More particularly, the drive system 62 of Shepherd is coupled to the head 14 via a drive band and pulley that are coupled to a bearing assembly attached to an upper cap portion of the head 14. The drive system 62 is not coupled to the cutting head 14 of Shepherd via a clamp that supports the cutting head assembly in a weight-bearing manner. Rather, the head 14 is supported in Shepherd by a rubber yoke 64 and joint assembly 70, neither of which are used to couple the drive system to the cutting head 14. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious in view of Shepherd.

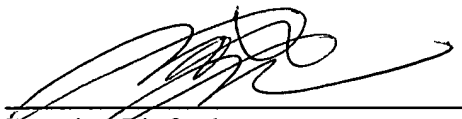
Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). As both claims are dependent on claim 1, applicants believe that, at a minimum, claims 8 and 9 are allowable as being dependent on claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

Seed IP Law Group PLLC



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LL:ad

Enclosures:
Postcard
Replacement Drawing Sheet (Figure 4)
Annotated Drawing Sheet Showing Change

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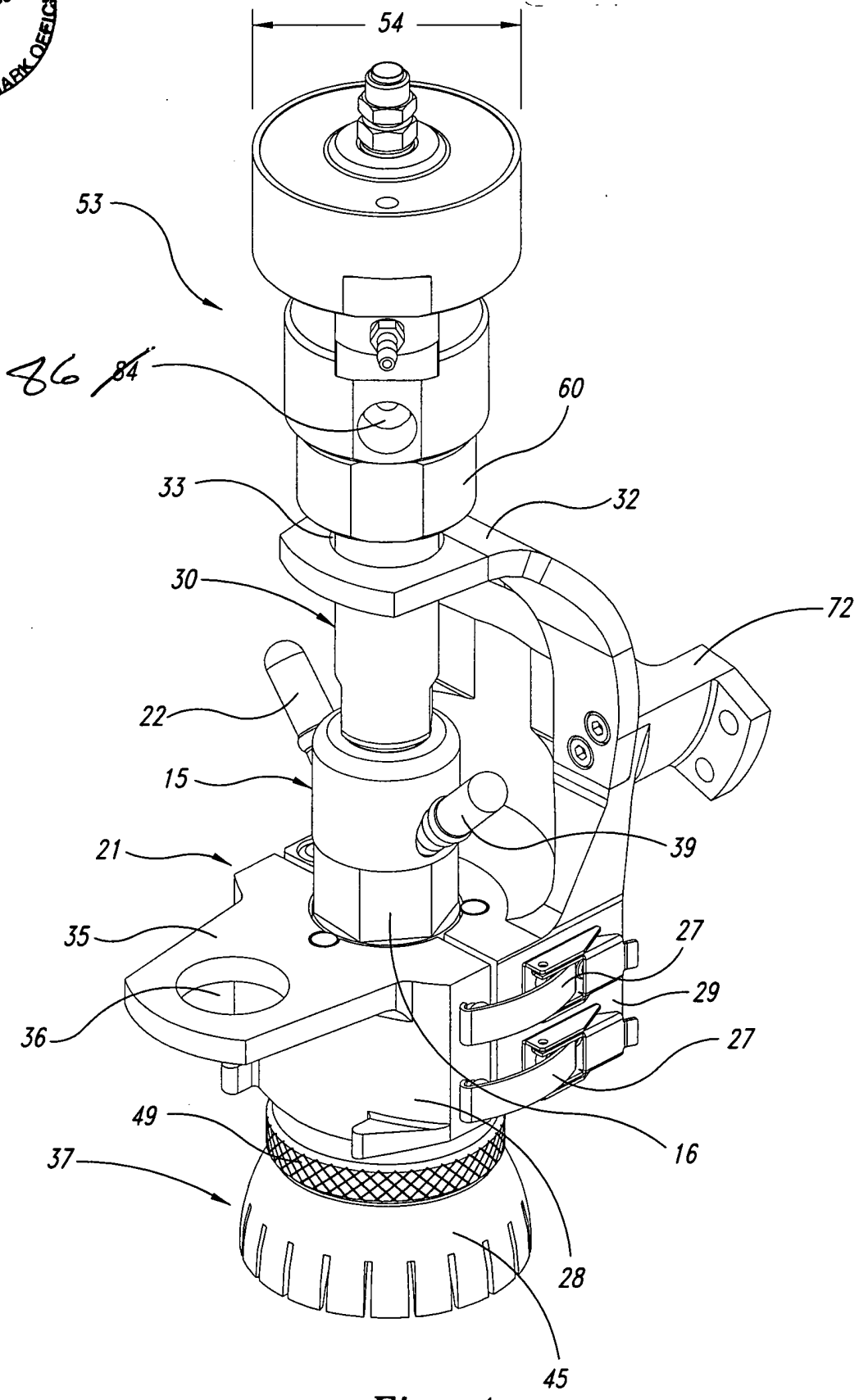

Fig. 4